

EFFECTIVE

September 1, 2015.

Subject(s)

Children's Clothing Allowance.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (FIP)

The 2015 Fiscal Appropriation Act included funding for the children's clothing allowance. The allowance is intended to assist FIP families to purchase school clothing for their children.

The children's clothing allowance for the 2015 fiscal year is \$140 per child and is excluded as income for all programs.

**ELIGIBILITY
CRITERIA**

- The FIP eligibility determination group (EDG) must be active as a child-only FIP EDG.
- All eligible children on the child-only FIP EDG will receive the clothing allowance. The eligible child must be eligible for FIP during September 2015. This includes children receiving SSI in the FIP EDG. Disqualified children will not receive the clothing allowance supplement.
 - Exception: Children disqualified for not having a social security number will receive the clothing allowance supplement.

Definition

A child-only FIP EDG is defined as an EDG in which there is not an eligible adult on the EDG. These could include the following:

- Ineligible grantees (grandparents, aunt or uncle that are not recipients on the FIP EDG).
- Parent(s) receiving SSI.
- Unrelated guardians who are court appointed.

- A FIP EDG in which an eligible adult is disqualified will not receive a clothing allowance supplement.

PAYMENTS

Bridges will automatically issue supplements for the children's clothing allowance to FIP EDGs with qualifying children who are eligible for September FIP payments in Bridges as of the single deadline date of August 31, 2015. The children's clothing allowance supplement is deposited into the client's EBT cash account.

The supplement amount will include \$140 for each eligible child. The supplement will be automatically issued if the FIP EDG is active on August 31, 2015 for September benefits. A supplement will be deposited into the client's EBT cash account at the same time as the FIP payment is issued, but will appear as a separate payment. The supplement will be viewable in Bridges under Benefit Issuance and View Benefits.

Any request for new FIP EDG openings or member adds for September 2015 that are processed after the initial clothing allowance monthly payroll run for September will require an exception. Please contact Bridges Resource Center in order to request a supplement for the FIP EDG.

Note: Once the funding for the children's clothing allowance is depleted, there will be no additional funds allocated, regardless of the eligibility of the FIP EDG.

A letter from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Director will be mailed to eligible clothing allowance supplemental households in August. This letter advises eligible families of the allowance coming in September to help with the cost of children's clothing.

For questions regarding this bulletin please contact the FIP policy mailbox: PolicyFIP-SDA-RAP@michigan.gov.

LEGAL BASE

2015 Fiscal Appropriations Act